

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9679

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 1154

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, PPDC, PA

SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP OF ASUNCION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER, PRAISING THE PRESIDENT'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. PARAGUAY'S RANKING PRELATE, THE ARCHBISHOP HAS BEEN IN FOREFRONT OF THE LOCAL CRUSADE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. FOLLOWING IS AN EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER, WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT:

THE ENTIRE WORLD IS AWARE OF AND ADMires THE OPEN AND SINCERE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL POSITION YOU HAVE TAKEN, AND THE MORAL COURAGE YOU HAVE DISPLAYED TOWARD THE SETBACK SUFFERED BY HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOME COUNTRIES, IN THE MIDST OF THE 20TH CENTURY OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA.

HUMAN RIGHTS, RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED IN SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BY PRACTICALLY ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLES, CANNOT CONSTITUTE A PERSONAL MATTER, BUT RATHER CONCERN THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF MAN. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, UNIVERSAL AND THE COMMON PATRIMONY OF ALL MEN.

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IT IS NOT A MATTER OF DEIFYING THE HUMAN PERSON. ON THE CONTRARY, BECAUSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S VERY WEAKNESS AND DEFENSELESSNESS, HE REQUIRES RESPECT AND VENERATION FROM THE ENTIRE HUMAN COMMUNITY. AND JUST AS THE INDIVIDUAL IS DUE RESPECT FROM OTHERS, SO IS HE BOUND, IN THE SAME DEGREE, TO RESPECT OTHERS.

PARAGUAY, WHOSE PEOPLE AND GEOGRAPHY ARE LIKE THE HEART OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIVES IN COMMUNION WITH HER SISTER NATIONS, AND NATURALLY CANNOT AVOID BEING INFLUENCED BY CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL, LIBERTY AND EXPLOITATION, TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD, OR BETWEEN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NON-RECOGNITION OR SCORN FOR THEM. WE PARAGUAYANS WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE AND WITH THE JOY AND PRIDE OF BEING TRUE TO OURSELVES.

MR. PRESIDENT: I CORDIALLY CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR HUMANITARIAN AND CHRISTIAN IDEALS AND FOR HAVING THE COURAGE TO PROCLAIM THEM, AND BECAUSE YOU TAKE THE LIBERTY OF SERENELY ADMONISHING THOSE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHER NATIONS TO PRACTICE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. I AM PLEASED TO CITE HERE THE FORETELLING WORDS OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH (32-15/18):

"UNTIL THE SPIRIT IS POURED UPON US FROM ON HIGH,
AND THE WILDERNESS BECOMES A FRUITFUL FIELD,
AND THE FRUITFUL FIELD IS DEEMED A FOREST.
THEN JUSTICE WILL DWELL IN THE WILDERNESS,
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ABIDE IN THE FRUITFUL FIELD.
AND THE EFFECT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BE PEACE."

THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND FAITHFUL UNDER-STANDING AMONG NATIONS, MAY WE SUCCEED IN BUILDING AN ERA OF HARMONY AND PEACE AMONGST NATIONS, AND WITHIN EACH NATION. RESPECTFULLY, ISMAEL ROLON, ARCHBISHOP. END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS WHITE HOUSE OR DEPARTMENT DESIRE TO DRAFT REPLY TO THIS MEANINGFUL MESSAGE, AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF LETTER AND THANK ARCHBISHOP FOR HIS KIND REMARKS. PLEASE ADVISE.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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